

FULL COUNCIL

12 OCTOBER 2022

Present: Councillors O’Callaghan (Chair), Barnett, Batsford, Beaney, Beaver, Cannan, Carr, Collins, Cooke, Edwards, Evans, Foster, Haffenden, Hay, Hilton, Jobson, Marlow-Eastwood, Patmore, Pragnell, Rankin, Roark, Roberts, Rogers, Sinden, Turner, Webb, Williams and Willis.

In attendance: Jane Hartnell, Managing Director (remotely); Mary Kilner, Chief Legal Officer; and Cameron Morley, Waste and Cleansing Services Manager.

277. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors Arthur, Bacon, Bishop and Fernando.

278. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2022 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

279. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Meeting	Minute	Interest
Hilton	Cabinet, 3 rd October	464 – Agreeing the Delivery Model For Grounds Maintenance Services From November 2023 (Part 1)	Personal – Member of the Hastings Garden Town team
Hilton	Cabinet, 3 rd October	466 – Agreeing the Delivery Model For Grounds Maintenance Services From November 2023 (Part 2)	Personal - Member of the Hastings Garden Town team

280. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Deputy Mayor presented the Mayoral Civic Award to James Robinson, founder of Surviving the Streets. James was nominated by Hastings Councillors for voluntary services to the Hastings community.

Councillor Sinden presented a Mayoral Award to Hastings Coastguard in celebration of their 200th anniversary.

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The Leader of the Council provided an update on the future of cardiology services at the Conquest Hospital. The NHS have proposed to relocate cardiac surgery services to Eastbourne. This would result in a difficult and lengthy journey for local residents. All three Group Leaders have agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health asking for a review of this decision.

281. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

281a) Members of the public under Rule 11

Written questions were received from the public and written responses sent to the questioners and published on the Council's website.

Mr McDonnell was present as a representative of Clean Water Action and asked when the working group setup by the Council to hold Southern Water to account will meet, and will Clean Water Action be invited to take part?

Councillor Hilton said that officers have been asked to organise a high-level meeting with Southern Water. There hasn't been a response yet but it will be followed up after the meeting.

Ms Phillips was present and asked a supplementary question. Ms Phillips asked who will be writing the report to Full Council on the proposed cycle path through Alexandra Park and will there be further consultation?

Councillor Hilton said the report will be written by Council officers and will pull together the multiple reports that have been written during the many iterations of the proposals going back to 2016. The report will go to Cabinet and then to Full Council for a final decision.

281b) Councillors under Rule 12

Councillor Edwards submitted a written question to Councillor Barnett, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Edwards asked the Leader of the Council to consider placing a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II in Harold Place. Councillor Barnett said he would look into the proposal.

Councillor Patmore submitted a written question to Councillor Willis, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Patmore asked if the Council is considering lowering its General Reserve target. Councillor Willis said the current minimum is set at a prudential level and the Council is taking a number of measures to make sure it doesn't go below the agreed minimum.

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Councillor Foster submitted a written question to Councillor Haffenden, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Foster asked what the costs were to the Council in providing free electricity via electric vehicle charging points this year. Councillor Haffenden replied that he would ask officers to look into this and respond in writing.

Councillor Cooke submitted a written question to Councillor Hilton, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cooke asked Councillor Hilton if she was aware of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and whether the Council has made a bid for funding. Councillor Hilton replied that the Council doesn't currently have any social housing and it would be for local housing associations to make use of the fund.

Councillor Hay submitted a written question to Councillor Haffenden, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hay asked if the in-house cleaners were being paid the National Living Wage as a minimum. Councillor Haffenden replied that he would ask officers to look into this and respond in writing.

Questioner	Subject	Reply given by
Councillor Patmore	<p><u>Investment Zone Status</u> – Will you back the joint application from Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council for Investment Zone status?</p> <p>Councillor Barnett replied that the Council wouldn't be backing the application. The Council were approached by officers from Rother to consider a joint bid but there has been no contact from East Sussex County Council. There is a lack of detail around Investment Zones and it seems to be part of a bonfire of regulations, in particular environmental protections.</p>	Councillor Barnett
Councillor Turner	<p><u>Cardiology Services</u> – Do you agree that we must demand that the decision to relocate cardiology services be reversed and there must be a serious look at the local NHS board?</p> <p>Councillor Barnett replied that he and Councillor Batsford had recently met with senior representatives of East Sussex NHS Trust to discuss health provision in</p>	Councillor Barnett

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	Hastings.	
Councillor Carr	<p><u>Councillor Training</u> – Can you tell me if all Councillors will receive training on the Council’s budget and if the new Portfolio Holder for finance has had any external finance training to support him in his role?</p> <p>Councillor Rogers replied that Treasury Management training will take place in January. Councillor Rogers said she would ask the Chief Finance Officer to include additional support to help Councillors understand the budget papers. Councillor Willis is having training on local authority finance.</p>	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Cooke	<p><u>Hastings Housing Company</u> – Does a Councillor sit on the Hastings Housing Company board?</p> <p>Councillor Evans replied that there isn’t currently a Councillor on the board. The Hastings Housing Company is going through an extensive review at the moment. A report will be coming to the Audit Committee and new appointments will be made in due course.</p>	Councillor Evans
Councillor Cannan	<p><u>Homelessness</u> – How will the Council deal with the costs of temporary accommodation?</p> <p>Councillor Willis replied that the Council is facing a large and rising cost to provide temporary accommodation. Recent Government policies will likely make this situation worse. The Council has looked at a range of ways to make savings in this area, including purchasing accommodation directly.</p>	Councillor Willis
Councillor Sinden	<p><u>Bexhill Road Housing Development</u> – Can you provide an update on how this development is progressing?</p> <p>Councillor Evans replied that these will be the first new council houses built by Hastings Borough Council for many years. The homes will be of the highest quality and capped at Local Housing Allowance rent. The homes will be future proofed against possible flooding.</p>	Councillor Evans

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Councillor Jobson	<p><u>Carbon Literacy Training</u> – Can you provide an update on the progress of Carbon Literacy Training?</p> <p>Councillor Rogers replied that this is being progressed.</p>	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Beaney	<p><u>West Marina Bathing Pool Site</u> – Can you update us on what progress is being made towards the development of the site and when can we expect a full public consultation?</p> <p>Councillor Barnett replied that he had recently met with the developers and they have not yet completed their investigations of the site. They are waiting to complete work on flood risks with the Environment Agency. Additionally, they require further information from Southern Water regarding the site. Once the investigations are complete, they will begin to consider design concepts.</p>	Councillor Barnett
Councillor Roberts	<p><u>St Mary in the Castle</u> – Can you update us on what is happening with this important asset?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that he has been having conversations with the creative sector in the town to hear their views. Anyone who is interested in taking on the building should contact the Council's agent Dyer and Hobbis. The Council wants the building to continue as an entertainment and cultural venue.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Webb	<p><u>Community Safety</u> – Can you give us an update on community safety developments in the town centre?</p> <p>Councillor Rogers replied that there is a problem with street drinking in the town centre. Project Adder is now setup in the town centre providing a space for street drinkers to access services and support. Councillor Rogers said she intends to invite the management team of Project Adder to come and talk to Councillors.</p>	Councillor Rogers

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282. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Jobson proposed a motion as set out in the agenda, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (by 21 votes for, to 5 against) that Full Council accepts the motion as set out below:

Hastings suffers from far too many speeding drivers, many of whom use short cuts through residential areas. There have been two deaths on our streets in the first half of 2022. To address this situation, Hastings Borough Council calls for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in residential areas of Hastings & St Leonards.

This idea is rapidly gaining ground across the UK: nearly 600 towns and cities – about 28 million people – now benefit from the safety and better air quality resulting from this lower speed limit. Wales has just introduced a 20 mph limit on urban and residential roads, which comes into force in 2023.

There are so many benefits to reducing speed limits. An area-wide limit makes it easier and safer to choose walking and cycling over car journeys for local trips. The significant reductions in air and noise pollution have a positive impact on physical health, including reductions in heart and lung disease. 20mph speed limits help create better-connected, safer, living communities, with higher air quality. Fewer road accidents, increased exercise, less fear and loneliness, and better-quality sleep from reduced noise levels all improve mental health.

Here are some of the specific benefits of a 20 mph limit:

- Lower carbon emissions: CO2 falls by an average of 26%.
- Nitrous oxide, NOx, falls by an average of 28%.
- Traffic noise falls by up to 50%.
- Greater child safety, making it more possible for children to walk to school.
- Fewer casualties. Evidence from Bristol, Edinburgh, Calderdale, Brighton and others shows how 20mph reduces casualties, saving police and NHS costs. A 1mph reduction in speed on an urban road reduces casualties on average by a whopping 6%.
- Most drivers obey the new speed limit without traffic calming measures. Speed limiters on new cars from 2022 will help.
- 20 mph reduces stop-start driving habits. Less accelerating / braking reduces brake and tyre particulates.
- It's excellent value for money. Doing nothing costs more!

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- Businesses thrive where it is safe to walk and cycle.
- A 20 mph limit makes no significant difference to bus journeys across town. Many bus companies have found no difference in their timetables.

The biggest benefit, however, is much simpler, but harder to measure: an increase in well-being. Communities thrive if there is less danger and less noise, creating a stronger sense of place.

Hastings Borough Council wants these benefits for our citizens.

We note that East Sussex County Council has repeatedly rejected motions calling for default 20 mph speeds on all residential streets. However, the County Council has agreed to consider a default 20 mph limit as part of developing Local Transport Plan 4. The Leader of Hastings Council will write to the Leader of East Sussex County Council and the Lead Member for Transport and Environment to call upon East Sussex County Council to make that commitment and invite them to work with us to implement a 20 mph limit on residential roads in Hastings and St Leonards. This should sit within a wider commitment to a Vision Zero approach to road safety, which aims at zero deaths or serious injuries on our roads and has already been adopted by both West Sussex and Kent County Councils.

We call upon the Leader of the Council to write to East Sussex County Council to ask them to set the process of implementing a 20 mph limit in Hastings and St Leonards in motion, working with police and ward councillors to identify all appropriate roads. We also ask all councillors on Hastings Borough Council for their active support for the 20's Plenty campaign, so we can build a town wide coalition to support this campaign.

The Deputy Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7.36pm and the meeting reconvened at 7.47pm.

283. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Hilton informed the Council that Councillor Carr is to be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Collins.

RESOLVED that the Council notes the following arrangements for the membership of committees:

1. Councillor Carr is appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Collins.

284. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Mayor having called over the minutes set out in the agenda; the following minutes were reserved for discussion.

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RESOLVED that under rule 13.3 the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda, including those items on which a council decision was required, be received, and agreed. Only those items which were reserved were discussed as follows:

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 1 st August 2022	447. Update on Health Inequalities Work in Hastings	Turner
Cabinet, 1 st August 2022	448. York Buildings	Edwards
Cabinet, 3 rd October 2022	464. Agreeing the Delivery Model For Grounds Maintenance Services From November 2023 (Part 1)	Patmore
Cabinet, 3 rd October 2022	466. Castleham Industrial Units Roof Refurbishment (Part 2)	Edwards
Cabinet, 3 rd October 2022	467. Agreeing the Delivery Model For Grounds Maintenance Services From November 2023 (Part 2)	Patmore

Councillors debated minutes 447 and 448 of Cabinet on 1st August 2022. These matters did not require Full Council approval.

Minute 464 of Cabinet on 3rd October 2022, Agreeing the Delivery Model For Grounds Maintenance Services From November 2023 (Part 1), was a matter requiring Full Council approval. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Hilton, seconded by Councillor Evans.

Councillor Patmore proposed that in order to take advice from the Waste and Cleansing Services Manager the meeting proceed as if in committee, seconded by Councillor Edwards.

RESOLVED that in order for Full Council to take advice from officers where appropriate, under Rule 16.14 of the Constitution the Council proceed as if in committee.

Councillors asked questions of the Waste and Cleansing Services Manager.

Councillor Sinden proposed the meeting return to Council mode, seconded by Councillor Roberts.

RESOLVED that the meeting return to Council mode.

Councillor Patmore proposed that debate on this item take place after the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

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RESOLVED (by 13 for, to 8 against) that debate on minute 464 take place after the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

Minutes 466 and 467 of Cabinet on 3rd October 2022 were exempt items. When these items were reached the Deputy Mayor proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Roberts.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minutes 466 and 467 of the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd October 2022 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

Minute 466 of Cabinet on 3rd October 2022, Castleham Industrial Units Roof Refurbishment (Part 2), was a matter requiring Full Council approval. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Barnett, seconded by Councillor Batsford and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That Full Council agree the Capital programme budget is increased from £250,000 to £325,000.

Reasons:

Costs have increased since the budget was set.

Minute 467 of Cabinet on 3rd October 2022, Agreeing the Delivery Model For Grounds Maintenance Services From November 2023 (Part 2), was a matter requiring Full Council approval.

Councillor Patmore proposed that in order to take advice from the Waste and Cleansing Services Manager the meeting proceed as if in committee, seconded by Councillor Beaver.

RESOLVED that in order for Full Council to take advice from officers where appropriate, under Rule 16.14 of the Constitution the Council proceed as if in Committee.

Councillors asked questions of the Waste and Cleansing Services Manager.

The Deputy Mayor proposed the meeting return to Council mode, seconded by Councillor Roberts.

RESOLVED that the meeting return to Council mode.

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The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Hilton, seconded by Councillor Evans and agreed by 16 votes for, to 11 against.

RESOLVED (by 16 votes for, to 11 against)

(i) To in-source the grounds maintenance service from November 2023, adding the service to Hastings Direct Services Organisation (HDSO).

(ii) To authorise the Waste & Cleansing Services Manager to progress the new Ground Maintenance service from November 2023, including the appointment of support staff, the procurement of any equipment and establishment of budgets as outlined in this report.

Reasons:

The current grounds maintenance contract with IdVerde comes to an end in November 2023. To ensure that there is no service disruption, Hastings Borough Council (HBC) will require a new supplier to carry out the work from that point forward.

With the assistance of an external grounds maintenance consultant, a review of the current GM service has been undertaken, and a full pricing exercise completed to establish the market rate of carrying out the council's GM service either as an in-house (via HDSO) or outsourced (via a contractor) operation. The outcome of that exercise, coupled with HBC's own soft market testing has demonstrated that the current service, if tendered right now, would be unaffordable.

With this in mind, an in-house proposal has been developed to provide a simplified service that covers HBC statutory and health and safety (H&S) responsibilities, while remaining affordable and continuing to offer some flexibility. It is recommended that this service be implemented from November 2023.

The Council's statutory duty to ensure the service offers Best Value is an important consideration in this matter. The S.151 Officer and Chief Legal Officer are persuaded that the evidence from the extensive market testing, and information provided by the consultants about the local market and procurement exercises undertaken in our geographic area both demonstrate that the approach offers best economic and social value.

(The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.59pm)